

# Pastor Plans for Christmas/ New Year's Day Services

Survey of Protestant Pastors

# Methodology

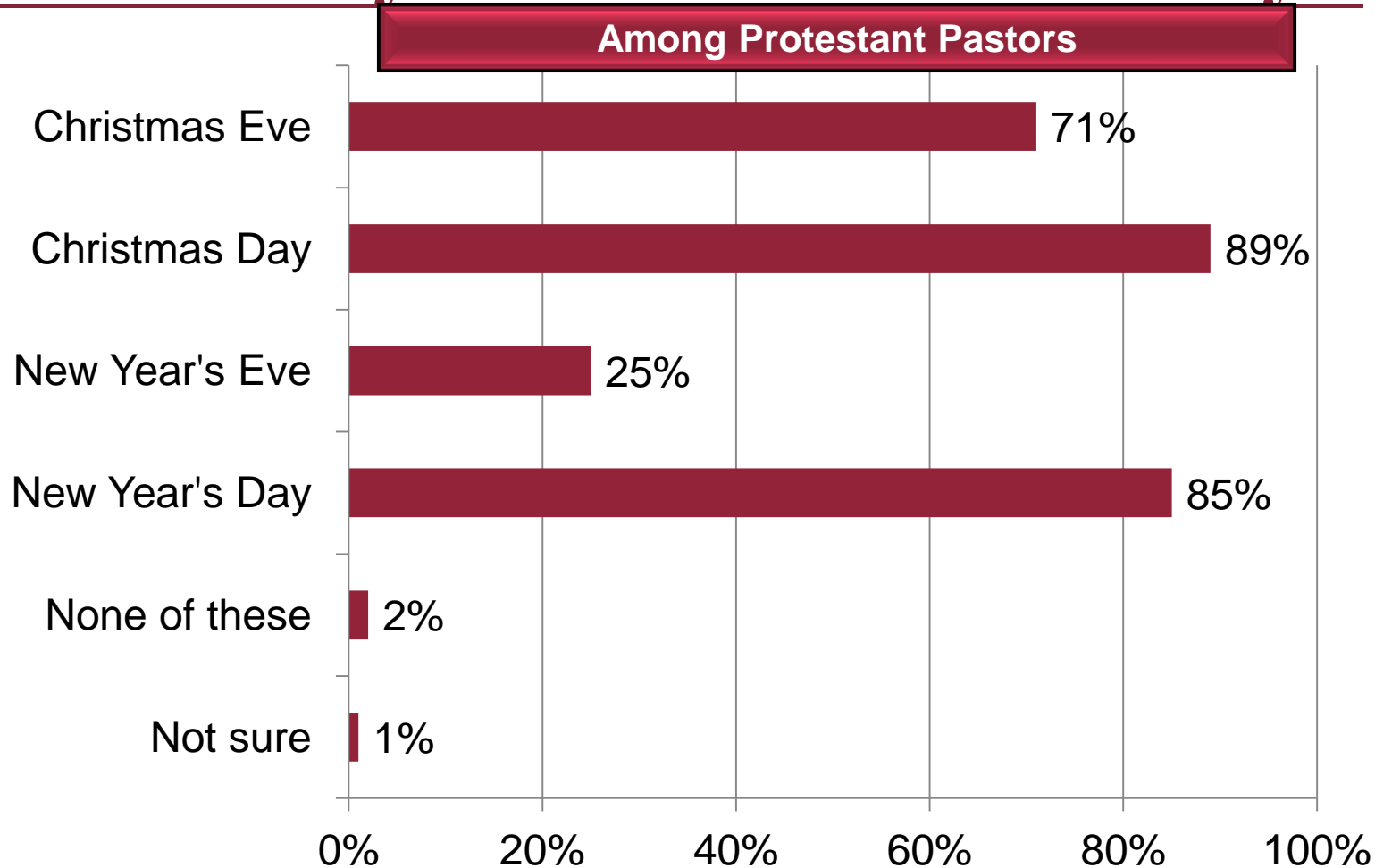
---

- ❑ The phone survey of Protestant pastors was conducted August 22 – September 16, 2016
- ❑ The calling list was a stratified random sample, drawn from a list of all Protestant churches. Quotas were used for church size
- ❑ Each interview was conducted with the senior pastor, minister or priest of the church called
- ❑ Responses were weighted by region to more accurately reflect the population
- ❑ The completed sample is 1,000 surveys
- ❑ The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed  $\pm 3.2\%$
- ❑ Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

# Survey Responses

---

# Nearly 9 out of 10 pastors say their churches will have services on Christmas Day and on New Year's Day



Q27: "Christmas and New Year's Day both fall on Sunday this year. As a result, does your church plan to have services on the following days? (Choose all that apply)"

# The majority of churches are planning both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services

---

## Christmas Eve or Day?

- ❑ 63% of Protestant churches plan to have *both* Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services
- ❑ 8% will *only* have a Christmas service on Christmas Eve and 25% will *only* have Christmas services that day
- ❑ 2% are planning *neither* a Christmas Eve nor a Christmas Day service and 1% are Not Sure

## New Year's Eve or Day?

- ❑ 20% of Protestant churches plan to have *both* New Year's Eve and New Year's Day services
- ❑ 5% will *only* have a New Year's Eve service and 65% will *only* have a New Year's service that day
- ❑ 9% are planning *neither* a New Year's Eve nor a New Year's Day service and 1% are Not Sure

# Significant Differences

---

Pastor

Ethnicity

Age

Education Level

Self-identified Evangelical/Mainline

Church

Region

Denomination

Average Attendance

# Significant Statistical Differences

- Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the church's attendance and region, the pastor's age and ethnicity.

Attendance	Region	Age	Pastor's Ethnicity
0-49	Northeast	18-44	White
50-99	Midwest	45-54	African American
100-249	South	55-64	Other Ethnicities
250+	West	65+	

Note: Region is defined by US Census regions

# Significant Statistical Differences

- Comparisons were also made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the self-identified Evangelical or Mainline, denomination, and education level.

Self-Identify	Denomination	Education Level
Evangelical	Baptist	No College Degree
Mainline	Christian/Church of Christ	Bachelor's Degree
	Lutheran	Master's Degree
	Methodist	Doctoral Degree
	Pentecostal	
	Presbyterian/ Reformed	



# “Christmas and New Year’s Day both fall on Sunday this year. As a result, does your church plan to have services on the following days?”

---

## Christmas Eve

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250 or more (77%) are more likely to select than those with attendance of 0-49 (64%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (86%) are more likely to select than pastors in the Midwest (77%), West (71%), and South (63%)
- Pastors age 18-44 (74%) and 55-64 (74%) are more likely to select than those 65+ (63%)
- African-American pastors are the least likely to select (50%)
- Mainline pastors (85%) are more likely to select than Evangelical pastors (68%)
- Lutherans (93%), Methodists (90%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (85%) are more likely to select than Baptist (65%), Pentecostal (54%), Church of Christ (46%), and Holiness (62%)
- Those with a Master’s (78%) or a Doctoral degree (76%) are more likely to select than those with no college degree (52%) or a Bachelor’s (54%)

# “Christmas and New Year’s Day both fall on Sunday this year. As a result, does your church plan to have services on the following days?”

---

## Christmas Day

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 100-249 (92%) are more likely to select than those with attendance of 0-49 (84%) and 250 or more (85%)
- Pastors in the South (89%) and Midwest (92%) are more likely to select than pastors in the West (83%)
- Baptists (91%), Lutherans (94%), Presbyterian/Reformed (91%), Church of Christ (93%), and Holiness (92%) are more likely to select than Pentecostal (79%)
- Those with a Master’s (91%) or Doctoral degree (91%) are more likely to select than those with no college degree (78%)

# “Christmas and New Year’s Day both fall on Sunday this year. As a result, does your church plan to have services on the following days?”

---

## **New Year’s Eve**

- African-American pastors (47%) are more likely to select than White pastors (24%)
- Pentecostals (38%) are more likely to select than Presbyterian/Reformed (11%) and Church of Christ (19%)
- Those with no college degree (34%) are more likely to select than those with a Master’s degree (23%)

# “Christmas and New Year’s Day both fall on Sunday this year. As a result, does your church plan to have services on the following days?”

---

## **New Year’s Day**

- Pastors age 65+ are the least likely to select (75%)
- White pastors (86%) are more likely to select than African-American pastors (65%)
- Presbyterian/Reformed (92%) and Church of Christ (95%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (81%), Pentecostal (72%), and Holiness (75%)
- Those with Master’s degree (87%) are more likely to select than those with a no college degree (75%)

# Pastor Plans for Christmas/ New Year's Day Services

Survey of Protestant Pastors